

GREATER DAYTON EMMAUS



450 ALEX-BELL RD. CENTERVILLE, OH 45459

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SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome
WW115 pilgrims!

We are excited for you
to join our community.

See you at the Gathering

Monday, September 14, 7:15 p.m.

at Normandy United Methodist Church,
450 West Alex-Bell Road, Centerville.

Service led by the women from Walk #115
AND our new pilgrims will have an opportunity
to share about their Fourth Days.

A Word from Wendy: Sacramental Beads



Beads. “Pony” beads, to be exact. Small (6 by 9 mm), plastic, multicolored. Used to make necklaces, bracelets, keychains, Christmas ornaments, or to embellish a variety of items. Beads are not just decorative, but can be functional, educational, artistic, ... and sacramental.

This summer I had the blessing of accompanying the youth of my church on their mission trip to Urban Mission in Steubenville, Ohio. Having arrived at our home for the week, been greeted by our host organization, eaten our dinner of DiCarlo’s “Ohio Valley pizza,” blown up our air mattresses and arranged our sleeping space, it was time to gather for evening devotions, which we would do each night.

We sang a few worship songs off the youth group playlist. We read the scripture (Romans 12:9-13) that we would be studying throughout the week in various translations, and we shared initial observations and thoughts. When the call was made for prayer requests before a closing evening prayer, the question was asked, “What about beads? Are we doing beads this year?”

As I was a rookie on the youth mission trip, the puzzlement showed on my face before the question escaped my lips, “Beads?” And then I learned about a youth mission trip tradition.

As we went about our day, we were to be looking for examples of compassion, leadership, service, and risk-taking among our team members. Each action was associated with a specific color of bead:

- **Green for compassion:** “When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” [Mt 9:36]
- **Red for leadership:** “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: ... the one who leads with zeal...” [Romans 12:6, 8]

- **White for service:** “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.” [Mk 10:45]
- **Blue for risk-taking:** “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” [Joshua 1:9]

Then, each evening during the devotion time, we shared our observations and gifted beads with the liturgy: “I saw God at work through you today, (Name), through your compassion/leadership/service/risk-taking when you_____.”

Remember *Means of Grace*? A sacrament is a sacred moment when an everyday, ordinary object shows us God’s grace. The official sacraments of the church are those sacred moments instructed by Jesus in scripture – baptism using water to show God’s grace, holy communion using bread and wine to show God’s grace. And then there are the unofficial sacraments that reveal God’s grace through everyday things – like a cold bottle of water passed out during a hot Fourth of July parade, or a bag of food that enables a family to eat for a few days, ... or a pony bead.

It was a blessing to acknowledge the faithful actions I observed with beads, and humbling (and encouraging) to receive beads for what others observed in me. A week is not enough time to form a new habit, and I haven’t (yet) bought a supply of pony beads, but the mission trip practice of noticing and naming was formative and transformative, and worth practicing on our home “mission field.”

Where have you seen God at work through another’s faithful action today? May God grant you the risk-taking courage to share that with them... And the youth shall lead us.

De Colores, *Wendy Lybarger*
Spiritual Director

Thriving in a Community of Faith



A *community* is defined as a social unit of people with shared characteristics, culture, values, customs, etc. We refer to Emmaus as a *community*. Our common goals might be described as to celebrate Christ together and to bring others to a deeper understanding and closeness with God the Father.

But as far as common characteristics, we come from a huge variety of neighborhoods, races, cultures, socio-economic positions, educational levels, employment positions, sexual orientations, family situations, etc. God certainly levels the playing field.

That's what I appreciate so much about the Emmaus Program and our weekend retreats. Few pilgrims know each other, and they are asked to not disclose their jobs or churches just for starters. From there, we sit together, discuss talks, eat together, and describe our personal faith journeys. But, we do not know who these people are in the usual sense of sizing people up right away. There

are no preconceived notions about who the person is sitting across the table, how much money they earn, where they live or where they worship.

What is fascinating is that it doesn't seem to matter in order to enjoy each other's company. We laugh, sing, talk about our faith journeys and our personal relationships, and we cry together. We even design posters together, agree on an appointed table person to present the poster and then stand beside them smiling as we support their presentation.

Is it too much of a stretch to see that people can work together, discuss ideas, come to a consensus and move forward with a plan in other areas of our lives and, whoa, what about even our communities and governments?

What every human wants, really, is to live in peace, raise a family, eat a satisfactory meal, and enjoy some recreation, maybe in God's created

nature. Why do we keep judging people by extraneous values that are totally irrelevant to the topic?

I just wish that everyone could attend a three-day Emmaus Weekend and see how this is done. God doesn't judge us by our income, size of our house, race, educational degree or job title. When we hit the streets this week, let's live the way God wants us to and treat our neighbors how we would like to be treated. Be nice to everyone, support those in need to the best of our ability, enjoy our families, share our dinner tables, and worship God because he has given us everything we need.

Oh yeah... and invite someone to one of the next Walks. The world will be better for it.

Mike Baughman
Community Lay Director

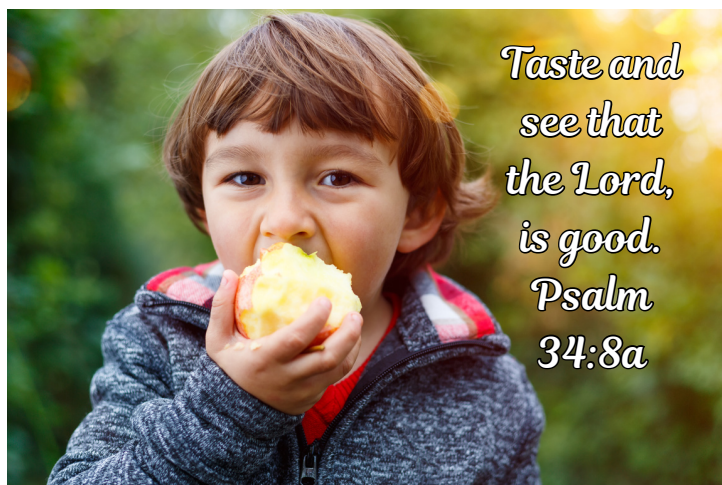


The Board is complete

Welcome new Board members A.J. Puderbaugh and Dawn Hedrick! A.J. now serves as our community Agape Chairperson and Dawn will be presented at the September Gathering to serve as our Board Secretary.
A.J. and Dawn, welcome to the team!



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Greater Dayton Emmaus



*Taste and
see that
the Lord,
is good.
Psalm
34:8a*



A Warm Welcome to Our New Pilgrims

As your Good Shepherd, it is my joy to celebrate and welcome our newest pilgrims into the Greater Dayton Emmaus Community!

What a blessing it is to see new faces joining our community and beginning their Fourth Day journey. We are excited to hear how your Fourth Days are going and to walk alongside you as you continue to grow in faith, friendship, and service.

Our next Emmaus Gathering at Normandy will be another wonderful opportunity to reconnect, worship, and share in the joy of our Emmaus community. Before the Gathering, I will be hosting a Share Group Orientation at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel at Normandy.

This orientation is open to the entire Emmaus community. If you are already part of a Share Group or would be interested in mentoring our new pilgrims in their Share Groups, please let me know.

SHARE GROUP ORIENTATION

6:30 p.m. Monday, September 14
Normandy UMC, Chapel
before Gathering

Also, anyone interested in forming a Share Group, please bring your Share Group Reunion Cards to orientation. This will be a great opportunity to encourage one another, strengthen our Share Groups, and help our newest members find a place where they can continue to experience the support and love of the Emmaus community.



And a special reminder to all our sponsors: please bring your pilgrims with you to the Gathering! Your role doesn't end when the Walk is over. One of the greatest gifts you can give your pilgrim is to help them become connected and involved in the community during their Fourth Day.

To our newest pilgrims, welcome home! We are so glad you are part of the Emmaus family. We can't wait to hear your stories, celebrate what God is doing in your lives, and see where your Fourth Day journey takes you.

De Colores!
Your Good Shepherd,

Emily Adams

daytonemmausgoodshepherd@gmail.com



Let your light shine



Register today for Walk Weekend Lay Director Training

WHAT:

Weekend Lay Director Training. Learn everything it takes to lead an Emmaus Walk Weekend.

Continental breakfast will be served as well as lunch.

WHEN:

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Normandy United Methodist Church in Centerville

WHO:

Anyone wanting to be considered for a Weekend Lay Director position is required to attend this training at least six months before a Walk they are interested in leading.

REGISTER:

This training is being offered for free, but you must register so enough food and materials are prepared. Contact Jean Keillor via text or phone call at 937-681-7468

Anyone who enjoys serving on Weekends and wants to understand the process of how to lead a Weekend.

Thank you GDE!

Greater Dayton Emmaus Community, we sincerely appreciate all your assistance in making our Women's Walk #115 a great success. From the Live-in Team and all the sponsors and speakers to the support from willing servants in Housing, Kitchen, Agape and Worship. We especially thank you for all the uplifted prayers. We look forward to the Men's Walk #75 in January and the Women's Walk #116 in February! May God continue to bless all our efforts in building disciples for his kingdom.



Willing servants loading up the van for The Big Move.

Board of Directors

*Chairman:	Mike Baughman
Vice Chair:	Jean Keillor
Past Chair:	Brenda Baker
Secretary:	Dawn Hedrick
Treasurer:	Keith Crabtree
Spiritual Director:	Palmer Jason/lead
	Brian Hayes
	Mamie Johnson
	Wendy Lybarger
Agape:	A.J. Puderbaugh
Communications:	Amy Fitzwater
Documentation:	Debbie Hayes
Good Shepherd	
/Outreach:	Emily Adams
Housing:	Tom Donaldson
Kitchen:	Samantha Hoang
Registrar-Men:	Gary Stanforth
Registrar-Women:	Julia Crowl
Supply Chair:	Xenia Jean-Louis
Worship:	Linda Haller



Find the info
you need at
daytonemmaus.org

Greater Dayton Emmaus is overflowing with opportunities *to shine your light* through service:

- **Gathering** – sound operators, worship leaders, musicians, prayer leaders, ushers, communion servers, Fourth Day speakers and more.
- **Walk Live-in Team** – start out on a live-in team as an Assistant Table Leader, then you can move on to Table Leader, Logistics and more.
- **Walk Support** – help in the kitchen, with housing, making agape, operating sound, prayer, and more.
- **Board Support Teams** – every chair needs a team of people they may call on.

God has a place for you!



Training up sponsors

As we look forward to this winter Men's and Women's Walks, please begin thinking and praying about who you can sponsor as a pilgrim.

Sponsors are vital to the Emmaus ministry. Every pilgrim needs a sponsor to guide them. If you have never been a sponsor and are considering sponsoring a pilgrim for one of our winter Walks, now is the time to attend Sponsorship Training.

Training is held each month right before our Gathering service – the second Monday at Normandy United Methodist Church, 450 W. Alex-Bell Rd., Centerville. Training is held at 6:30 p.m. in the Logia Room with the Gathering following at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

All interested persons must be trained before sponsoring a pilgrim so they know all that is expected of them before, during and after their pilgrim's Walk. If you have any questions, please contact either our Women's Registrar, Julia Crowl at gderegistrar@daytonemmaus.org, or our Men's Registrar, Gary Stanforth at gstanforth.lisw@gmail.com.

Share

Your

Testimony



Do you have a Fourth Day Testimony to share? The newsletter is another way to share what God is doing in your life since your Walk. Submit your written testimony to Amy Fitzwater at media@daytonemmaus.org.

Please include the following information and try to keep submissions to no more than 200 words:
1) Your name, what Walk you were on and what table you sat at, 2) How your Emmaus Walk impacted your walk with God and 3) What God has been doing in your life since your Walk.

coming soon...

Walk Leadership Training

Saturday, September 12

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Normandy UMC, Centerville

Register ASAP, see p. 4

SEPTEMBER GATHERING

MEET THE WW #115 PILGRIMS!

Monday, September 14, 7:15 p.m.

Share Group Orientation, Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training, Logia Room, 6:30 p.m.

Normandy UMC, 450 Alex-Bell, Centerville

Board Retreat: Unity

Saturday, October 3

Jubilee Community Church, Miamisburg

October Gathering

Monday, October 12, 7:15 p.m.

Normandy UMC, Centerville

November Gathering

Monday, November 9, 7:15 p.m.

Normandy UMC, Centerville

December Gathering

Monday, December 14, 7:15 p.m.

Normandy UMC, Centerville

Men's Walk #75

January 21-24, 2027

Leader: Tim Macy

Women's Walk #116

February 18-21, 2027

Leader: Cathy Berry